

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /053 W

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P R 061929Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2649

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0694

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4 (IMPDET)

TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU

SUBJECT: MORE ON SUPPOSED APOTERI BASE AND ALLEGATION OF SECOND  
CUBAN SHIP

REF: GEORGETOWN 0681

1. EAST INDIAN BUSINESSMAN SOURCE OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY MENTIONED REFTEL CLAIMED ON APRIL 5 THAT HE TALKED WEEKEND APRIL 3-4 WITH SEVERAL AMERINDIANS FROM INTERIOR WITH WHOM HE HAS HAD PRIOR BUSINESS DEALINGS AND WHO ARE IN GEORGETOWN TO ATTEND SPECIAL AMERINDIAN CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY GOG. A PARTICIPANT NAMED BUCKLEY (FNU) FROM SAND CREEK ON RUPUNUNI RIVER ALLEGEDLY TOLD HIM IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTIONS THAT AMERINDIANS TRAVELING UP RIVER HAVE TALKED TO HIM ABOUT NEW GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) BASE AT APOTERI AND HAVE MENTIONED THAT SOME FOREIGNERS ARE OR HAVE BEEN PRESENT THERE. BUSINESSMAN SOURCE ALSO ALLEGED CONTACT IN HARBORS DEPARTMENT TOLD HIM THAT CUBAN SHIP DISCHARGED CARGO AT WINEPERU ON ESSEQUIBO RIVER THREE TO FOUR WEEKS AGO AFTER BEING PILOTED UP BY HARBORMASTER AND WITHOUT BEING CLEARED BY CUSTOMS OR IMMIGRATION. CARGO WAS FERRIED FURTHER INTO INTERIOR BY GDF PLANES, ACCORDING SOURCE. BUSINESSMAN ALLEGES HE CHECKED  
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LIST OF SHIPS ARRIVED DURING PAST MONTH, BUT SAW NO NOTATION OF

CUBAN SHIP.

2. WINEPERU IS EXTREME UPPER LIMIT OF SHIP NAVIGATION ON ESSEQUIBO RIVER. PILOT SOURCE WHO HAVE FIRST RELIABLE INFORMATION ON CUBAN TANKER IN JANUARY TOLD EMBOFF MAXIMUM SIZE SHIP WHICH COULD REACH WINEPERU WOULD BE ABOUT 100 TONS DISPLACEMENT AND SEVEN FEET DRAFT. FELLOW PILOT WAS NEAR WINEPERU ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. DESPITE PROBABILITY THAT CUBAN SHIP THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN LASTING TOPIC OF CONVERSATION, NEITHER HE NOR SOURCE HAVE HEARD OF IT.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD TWO EARLIER REPORTS OF CUBAN SHIP ABOUT 3-4 WEEKS AGO BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THEM. ONE OF THESE REPORTS SPECIFIED ESSEQUIBO RIVER, BUT NOT THE PORT. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT CUBAN TANKER, 10 DE OCTUBRE, IN JANUARY WAS PILOTED PERSONALLY UP DEMERARA RIVER BY HARBORMASTER WITH CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION INSTRUCTED BY PRIME MINISTER NOT TO BOARD OR INSPECT SHIP. IF REPORT CORRECT AND IF SUPPLIES WERE DESTINED FOR APOTERI, WINEPERU WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF BEING RELATIVELY CLOSER THAN ANY OTHER PORT AND OF BEING SECLUDED FROM THE SORT OF CASUAL VIEW BY PUBLIC WHICH BLEW SECRECY FROM THE JANUARY LINDEN/TIMEHRI OFFLOADING OF CUBAN TANKER. WE WILL LOOK INTO CUBAN SHIP REPORT FURTHER IN ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM OR REFUTE.  
KREBS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY BASES, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cahillha  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GEORGE00694  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760129-0953  
**From:** GEORGETOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760494/aaaadces.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 GEORGETOWN 681  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cahillha  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by cahillha>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORE ON SUPPOSED APOTERI BASE AND ALLEGATION OF SECOND CUBAN SHIP  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, GY, CU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006